

CM/ST.1 (LI)

**STATEMENT OF THE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON THE DECISION
OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO LIFT THE BAN ON NEW
INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

The OAU Council of Ministers, meeting in its Fifty-first Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, has received with profound indignation the news of the British Government's decision to unilaterally lift the ban of the EEC on new investments in South Africa.

The Council is of the opinion that such a decision, coming at a time when there is an international consensus on the need to maintain sanctions and other forms of pressure until the Pretoria regime takes irreversible measures to eradicate the system of apartheid, is most regrettable. The Council is also of the view that this decision, instead of encouraging the Pretoria regime to proceed with meaningful measures leading to the dismantling of apartheid, would rather embolden the regime to entrench apartheid.

The Council, therefore, condemns this unfortunate and unilateral decision of the British Government.

Meanwhile, the Council expresses its appreciation to the EEC Council of Ministers for maintaining its original position on the question of sanctions against the Pretoria regime.

The Council seizes this opportunity to reiterate the position of the OAU as enunciated in the Harare Declaration whose essential elements were endorsed by the 18th Special Session of the UN General Assembly; and declares that existing sanctions and other forms of pressure should, at the very least, be maintained until irreversible measures leading to the establishment of a non-racial and democratic South Africa are taken in accordance with the UNGA Declaration adopted by consensus last December.

In this connection, the Council reiterates its appeal to the international community to continue to maintain all forms of pressure against the apartheid regime until apartheid is abolished.